Statement of Bangladesh Government regarding Bangladeshi Immigrants

1310. SHRI S. RAMCHANDRAN PILLAI:
SHRI E. BALANANDAN:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to Bangladesh's warning not to forcibly send people across the border in the name of illegal Bangladeshi immigrants;

(b) if so, the reaction of Government thereto; and

(c) what steps Government have taken to resolve the problem by discussion keeping in view of our friendly relations?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) to (c) The Government is aware of the statements of the Government of Bangladesh on the return of Bangladeshi nationals staying illegally in India. The Government has conveyed its concern about the seriousness and the magnitude of the problem to the Government of Bangladesh at the political and diplomatic levels on several occasions, most recently at the Home Secretary-level talks in Dhaka on 21-23 November 1998. Government have sought the cooperation of the Government of Bangladesh on measures to strengthen security at the border to prevent illegal border crossing.

Official level talks between India and Pakistan

1311. SHRI SITARAM KESRI:
SHRI RAHASBIHARI BARIK:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the official level talks between India and Pakistan have been held during the last six months; and

(b) if so, the details of the discussions held and decision taken therein, so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) and (b) As part of the agreed composite dialogue, the Foreign Secretaries of India and Pakistan met in Islamabad on 15-18 October 1998 for discussions on the subjects of Peace and Secrurity, including Confidence Building Measures, and Jammu & Kashmir. The discussions on Peace and Security and CBM's indicated that there was a convergence of views on the need for exchanging ideas on security concepts and nuclear doctrines, developing nuclear and conventional CBMs, putting in place communications links that are dedicated, secure and failsafe, increased information flow for greater transparency and predictability, as well as for setting up of a consultative mechanism for periodic review and improved implementation of existing CBMs. There was agreement in principle that experts on the two sides could meet for further discussions on these matters. In the disucssion on Jammu & Kashmir, our side drew attention to the fact that the entire state of Jammu & Kashmir is an integral part of India and that this legal status does not admit of any change. We also reiterated the demand that Pakistan should forthwith cease its futile sponsorship of terrorism, and strictly adhere to the provisions of the Simla Agreement to which they are a party, including the commitment that neither side shall unilaterally alter the situation and both shall prevent the organisation, assistance or encouragement of any acts detrimental to the maintenance of peaceful and harmonious relations.

The composite dialogue process continued in New Delhi with talks being held from 5-13 November, 1998 on the subjects of Tulbul Navigation Project, Siachen, Sir Creek, Economic and Commercial Cooperation, Terrorism and Drug Trafficking and Promotion of Friendly Exchanges in various fields.

During discussions of Terrorism and